

Fort Jay,  
Governor's Island,  
New York City.  
New York County

HABS No. 4-6

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NY,  
31-Govt,  
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

District No. 4  
Southern New York State

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Wm. Dewey Foster, District Officer,  
25 West 45th Street, New York City.

FORT JAY

Governor's Island, New York Harbor, N.Y.

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In 1775 a citadel and outworks for the defense of New York Harbor were begun on Governor's Island. These were completed, mounting four 32-pounders and four 18-pounders. Governor's Island was abandoned by the Americans upon the occupation of New York by the British in 1776 and the Island was held by the British who fortified it heavily, until the signing of the peace in 1783. Probably these fortifications were situated approximately on the site of the present fort. (See map in N.Y. Public Library, from surveys 1775, 1776)

On Feb. 28, 1794 the Committee of the House of Congress directed to make a report on such harbour forts as required to be put in a proper state of defense, made a report in relation to Governor's Island, stating that the expense of constructing batteries, embrasures and platforms for 24 pieces was \$1727.52:- a redoubt for embrasures, \$810.; a magazine, \$200.; a black house or barracks, \$500. In March, 1794 and in April, 1795 appropriations were made to begin and complete the works on Governor's and Ellis Islands.

In 1797, \$50,117. was appropriated for the fort now known as Fort Jay. Such was the fear of French invasion that the professors and students of Columbia College came to the Island and worked with shovels and barrows to complete the work. The garrison at that time consisted of 1 Major, 1 Captain, 1 Surgeon, 2 first Lieutenants, 1 Cadet, 3 Sergeants, 1 Corporal, 4 Musicians, 5 Artificers, and 34 Privates. The work was planned by M. Vincent, a French

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engineer. According to the Kelby notes in the N.Y. Historical Society, "\$80,000. was granted by congress to be expended upon them". Further appropriations were made in 1798, 1799, 1800, and 1801. In 1798 the Secretary of War reported to Congress that Governor's Island had been fortified with an earthen fort of two bastions partly lined with masonry, two air furnaces, a large powder magazine and barracks.

In the center of Fort Jay in 1801 was a square blockhouse of timber, two stories high with a well under it. The cover of this well was not finally removed from the quadrangle until the early part of the present century.

In 1806 the old fort, except for the walled counterscarp, gate, sallyport, magazine and two barracks, was demolished to allow more durable materials to be used in construction. On the site was erected a new fort consisting of an enclosed pentagonal work with four bastions of masonry to hold 100 guns. On three of its sides it was built the same as Fort Jay, the elder, with the addition of 14 feet on each side, and on the North wall of a ravelin with two retired casemated flanks. Guns to command the ditch were located here.

On account of the unpopularity of Jay, who had been one of the Commissioners arranging the treaty with Great Britain, the name of the fort was changed to Fort Columbus, so that we read in a letter from the Hon. Sam'l. Mitchell, October 9th 1808: "Fort Columbus is now finished. It is a work composed of a walled rampart eight feet thick at its base diminishing by its slope to six feet at the line of the cordon, with counter forts of five feet in depth at the distance

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of thirteen feet from each other, surmounted by a solid brick parapet of ten feet in thickness. The ditch is about 40 feet wide with a walled counterscarp, a walled covert way and a sodded glacis extending to the water's edge." This letter mentions 780 men as the estimated complement to man 60 cannon. Also in a report of Gov. Daniel D. Thompson, dated Jan. 19th 1810: "Fort Columbus on Governor's Island is finished and capable of mounting 104 guns, of which 50 are already on the parapets. This is a regular erected work of masonry with a ditch, counterscarp, covert way and glacis capable of resisting a long siege."

In 1825 the Duke of Saxe-Weimar records in his "Travels": "Upon this island is a fort of red sandstone called Columbus. It consists of four bastions. In the interior are barracks and arsenals, the former inhabited by a company of artillery."

In September, 1832, new barracks were begun within the fort. the scarp wall, the counterscarp revetments and the revetments of the glacis were completed, also the facing of the covered way revetment leading from the fort to Castle Williams.

In 1833, \$50,000. was appropriated for repairs to Castle Williams and Fort Columbus.

From the report of Capt. J. L. Smith, Corps of Engineers, Oct. 19th 1833: "The scarp and curtain are finished. The counterscarp and revetment of the glacis are finished except the West front. The passageway through the postern is raised to the height of the spring of the arch. The redan with casemated flanks on the North front was formerly approached from the parade through a gap in the rampart. This gap has been filled by a magazine. The part of the hollow

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passage near the salient of the redan is to be occupied by two magazines for fixed ammunition or storage. This will enlarge the terreplein and the salient of the redan. The parapets are sodded and the glacis is being graduated".

Other additions and repairs were made in 1836.

During the Civil War in the basement of the East building of the quadrangle ~~was~~ a double guarded cell was maintained. This consisted of an outside cell in which the guard was locked and an inner one for the prisoner.

At some time prior to 1868 the West building was devoted to officers' quarters, divided by halls and staircases on each side of the sallyport into eight sets of quarters. In 1920-1921 the other three buildings were converted into officers' quarters and the West building altered. At present each building is occupied by four officers and their families.

In 1904 the name of Fort Jay was restored and given also to the entire post.

The Quadrangle Buildings are probably those referred to as the new barracks begun within the fort in September, 1832. The Greek Doric colonnades and the iron balconies are typical of this period. The original roof beams with only enough pitch for drainage still remaining, show that the roofs of these buildings were originally flat. The sketches in Surgeon Page's manuscript history show, however, that the roofs had been raised to their present pitch by 1868. Before the alterations of 1920-1921 the roofs were covered with slate.

The small irregular-shaped buildings, two-stories high, off the ends of three of the barrack buildings were originally eight in num-

ber. Surgeon Page gives their uses as follows: "The basements are used, some as store rooms for company kitchens, others for privies. The upper stories are devoted to various uses, tailor shops, etc. One of these buildings is transformed into a bakery." At present only one of these buildings is in use, probably as living quarters for an orderly.

A bricked-up archway in the center of the South buildings indicates that originally the four sides of the quadrangle were similar in this respect. At present the center bay of the South building is filled in by a stair hall leading to the quarters on the second floor.

Surgeon Page describes the uses of the barracks as follows: The basements comprised two sets of Kitchens and Mess Halls arranged for two companies. The smaller rooms at each end were used as kitchens and bread rooms for the company mess. The first stories, divided into two large and four smaller rooms each, and the second stories of three large rooms with two smaller rooms at the ends of the building were used as dormitories.

The two cisterns under the quadrangle though not in use are still open. From old accounts it appears that these cisterns were cleaned out when they ran dry. Formerly there were four other cisterns within the counterscarp but some of these have been filled up.

No record has been found, nor any conclusive conjecture offered as to the use for the brick building behind and attached to the upper part of the gate at the East sallyport. The upper part may have been a guard room or sentry house. The low basement story shows signs in the floor of an opening which may have given access to this house

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from the basement of the East building of the quadrangle without going out of doors. This building shows an unbonded joint between its walls and the sandstone of the gate, and is possibly of the same date as the quadrangle buildings, (the gate was finished in 1801)

The terreplein, or sod platform inside the scarp walls, originally continued unbroken from behind the curtain to the rear walls of the four quadrangle buildings. At present this grade is cut away from immediately behind the barbettes and slopes down to the basement floor level to admit of windows being cut through the old retaining wall which forms the rear wall of the basement. This fact explains the curious condition in the rear of the North building where the steps leading up each side of the entrance to the magazine land ten feet or so above the bottom of the present area.

The materials of the counterscarp and ramparts are:

Counterscarp - red sandstone. 6" coping, 2'-6" wide,  
stones fastened together by bronze clamps.

Revetment of rampart - red brick with projecting header  
course cap and red sandstone quoins.

Source References

Governor's Island by Edmund Banks Smith (onetime Chaplain of  
the post)

N.Y. Valentine's Manual, Inc. 1922

U.S. Medical History of the Post, 1868 by Surgeon Chas. Page  
F.W. Elbrey, Ass't.  
(Manuscript now in Post Hospital Library at  
Governor's Island)

Written March 25th 1934 by

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Addendum to  
Fort Jay  
Governors Island  
New York Harbor  
New York City

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

GOVERNORS ISLAND, FORT COLUMBUS (FORT JAY)

HABS NO. NY-4-6

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Addendum to 6 data pages previously transmitted to the Library of Congress.

Location: Northern half of Governors Island, New York Harbor, New York, New York.

Present Owner: United States Coast Guard

Present Occupant: United States Coast Guard

Present Use: Setting for group of officers' quarters

Significance: Constructed on the site of an earlier defense work in the years 1806-1809, Fort Columbus, renamed Fort Jay in 1904, was one of the largest fortifications in the defense system that effectively defended New York City and its harbor during the War of 1812. This four-bastioned fort, which differed somewhat from the earlier work, was modeled on precedents with their roots in Europe. Alterations in its design may have been the work of Lieutenant-Colonel Jonathan Williams, the Army's Chief Engineer and first superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, who directed the fortification of New York Harbor. Its construction of massive masonry walls was typical of American fortifications erected in the years just prior to the War of 1812 under what came to be known as the Second American System of fortifications. Today, the structure remains as one of the country's best preserved fortifications of its type.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Construction of Fort Columbus was begun in 1806 and completed in 1809 under the direction of Lieutenant-Colonel Jonathan Williams (Williams, November 1808; Stokes vol. 5, pp. 1500, 1515).
2. Architect: The engineer in charge of the erection of defense works in New York Harbor in the years prior to the War of 1812 was Lieutenant-Colonel Jonathan Williams. Williams may have been responsible for the design of Fort Columbus which differed somewhat from the previous fortification that stood on the same site until 1805. Williams, the Army's Chief Engineer and first superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point had gained a solid theoretical knowledge of fortifications while living in France from 1776 to 1785 under the auspices of his great uncle Benjamin Franklin (Dictionary of American Biography, vol. 20, pp. 280-282).

3. Original and subsequent owners: The United States Army was the original owner. Ownership was transferred to the United States Coast Guard in 1966.
4. Builder: Local builders Hilliard and Louder were responsible for the construction of the fort (Delafield to Totten, November 15, 1848).
5. Original plans and construction: In a draft report dated November 1808, Williams gave a detailed description of the fort (a copy of this report at the end of this section). The square four-bastioned shape and portions of the earlier fortification were retained, enlarged and improved. Because of its impermanent construction only the walled counterscarp, gate, sallyport, magazine and two barracks of the 1790s structure were salvageable. The shape of the new fortification remained the same on the west, south and east sides, and an additional 14' were added to each. On the north, a ravelin or a work with two faces forming a salient angle replaced the former curtain wall. The ravelin was attached to the fortification by two retired casemated flanks. The casemates were entered through a lozenge-shaped depression in the ravelin. Williams indicated in his report that the north side was modified "expressly to take off a Line of Fire which could not avoid the city and to form two Lines commanding the East and the Entrance of the North River." Bartizans or small round circular towers were placed on the revetment wall at the salient angles of the bastions and ravelin. These small structures served as watch stations. The fort was surrounded by a ditch about 40' in width, a banquette and covered way 20' in width and a masonry wall 6' high supporting the crest of the glacis. A covered passage connected the fort with Castle Williams, a second defense work on the Island.

Williams also described the structural system which made the fort a formidable defense work. The revetment of the scarp wall, constructed of stone with a base 8' thick, rose to a height of 16' at the cordon. At that point, the wall was reduced to 6' thick. An additional 4' of wall forming the exterior of the sodded parapet was built of brick above the cordon. Counterforts or buttresses 5' in length set 18' apart, served as piers supporting the walls. Arches placed between the counterforts gave additional support to the parapet. The parapet, which was 10' thick, consisted of walls 3' and 2' thick joined by crosswalls. The interior spaces created by setting the crosswalls 9' from each other were filled with earth rammed very hard, rendering the parapet impenetrable.

Armament barracks and other structures related to the effective operation of a defense work were located within the walls of the fort. A wooden platform was built behind the parapet allowing guns mounted on carriages with high wheels to be managed with all the celerity and facility of field pieces.

When completed, the Fort was capable of firing about 100 guns en barbette. Within the fort, two earlier barracks buildings on the north and east sides were joined by two new barracks on the south and west sides. These are illustrated on a plan and cross-section of the Island drawn by Joseph Mangin in 1813 (Plates 1 and 2). The drawing also illustrates what may have been the present sandstone sculpture and the attached brick structure above the east sallyport. Also within the fort were a powder magazine in the northeast bastion which remained from the earlier fortification. The magazine was demolished at some time between 1832 and 1839.

The design of the fort structure had its roots in Europe. Bastions or four sided works consisting of two faces and two flanks projecting from the rampart were first built in Italy probably in the early 16th century. Over the next century, the bastioned fortress gradually evolved with experience, changing in size, shape, proportion and location of the bastions (Robinson, p. 23). Finally in the 17th century, a Frenchman, Sebastian Le Pestre Vauban, developed the principles on which bastioned fortifications were designed for the next century and a half (Ibid, pp. 7-12). Brought to America by the French and Spanish, the square four-bastioned fort became the most frequently used type in America, particularly among early defense works (Ibid, p. 23).

6. Alterations and additions: During the 1830s, a series of repairs and alterations was made to the fort. In 1831, \$71,203.71 was appropriated for work, and the following year an additional \$50,000 was earmarked for this purpose (Surgeon General's Report, 1868, p. 8). A report of the Chief of Engineers dated November 13, 1832 notes that repairs of the scarp wall were begun the previous year (American State Papers, vol 5, p. 42). By the end of September 1832, 2,470 cubic yards of stone masonry had been laid extending about three-quarters of the distance around the fort. At the time, two-thirds of the walls were finished and capped (Ibid). A report from the following year stated that satisfactory progress had been made in the repairs to the fort (Ibid, p. 185). By November 1834, the parapet and scarp wall, with the exception of pointing, were completed, and the counterscarp and glacis revetments were nearly finished (Ibid, p. 386). A year later, only the laying

of some of the gun traverses remained to be done (Ibid, p. 655). These (see Plate 3) were probably put in place to replace the wooden deck and mobile guns of the War of 1812 years. During the 1830s repairs, the bartizans were removed from the scarp wall. Plate 4, an 1832 plan of Fort Columbus with the original work and proposed alterations, shows that these small structures were to be removed. The barracks, which were in a bad state of decay as early as the late 1820s, were also replaced during the 1830s (see Plate 5), and eight triangular buildings were added at the corners of each of the four barracks buildings.

At some point between 1832 and 1839, the lozenge-shaped depression in the north ravelin was altered to become a powder magazine probably replacing the demolished magazine in the northeast bastion (see Plates 3 and 4). The 1839 drawing (Plate 3) shows a four-sided structure in its place. The entire area had been enclosed with masonry vaulting connected to the casemate entrances and, with the exception of the structure shown in Plate 3, covered with earth. The magazine which is now used as an armory is entered through large steel doors in a stone facade directly behind the postern of Building #214. A drawing of the structure made in 1968, illustrates the plan and sections. (See photograph HABS NY-5715-10-4 following the written data on Building #214.)

A concrete slab located northwest of Building #214 is the only evidence of a structure erected sometime between 1908 and 1934. A 1934 HABS drawing of the fort illustrates a round stone tower with a conical roof labelled water tank. The tower was soon altered, since a 1938 photograph taken during the WPA work shows a round tower with a crenellated parapet. The tower has since been demolished.

Repairs to the fort, were made once again in the 1930s. During that decade work on military installations, including the one on Governors Island, was undertaken by the Works Progress Administration. Under this program, the brick of the scarp wall was replaced, the counterscarp repaired, the barracks buildings remodeled, garages constructed in the bastions and new walks laid.

B. Historical Context:

Although the Island's location as a strategic site for a fortification was urged by several Royal governors during the 18th century, the British appear to have done little more than garrison troops there. It was not until 1776 when the rebellious Americans hastily erected fortifications throughout the city that the Island's

history as a fortified site began. In April of that year, several regiments numbering a thousand men landed on Governors Island and erected breastworks capable of covering them from the fire of British ships. In May, General George Washington reported to Lieutenant-General Charles Lee that "Governors Island has a large and strong work erected and a Regiment encamped there" (Smith, 1913, p. 41). By June, four 32 pounders and four 18 pounders had been mounted. Over the next two months, the works on the Island were strengthened with the addition of more troops, cannon, military stores and provisions.

Such efforts to protect the city were fruitless though. On August 27th, the Americans were defeated by British troops in the Battle of Long Island. By the 30th, the patriots had been evacuated from Governors Island. Within hours, the Island was heavily bombarded by four British ships. Two weeks later, the American troops abandoned the city, and the British occupation began. Under the British, the ruined fortification and batteries on Governors Island were repaired, and a naval hospital was established. On December 3, 1783, the British withdrew from the Island leaving all buildings intact.

Following the cessation of war, Americans turned their attention to the formation of a viable system of government and the economic recovery necessitated by British colonial policies and almost a decade of war. New Yorkers, who returned in 1783 to find that nearly a thousand buildings had been burned during the British occupation, began the task of rebuilding their city and pursuing the lead among American seaports in maritime trade. For a decade, little attention was paid to the need for an effective coastal fortification system. As a result, the fortification works on Governors Island were neglected and fell into disrepair. The Island became the site of a hotel and race track.

During the 1790s, the threat of war spurred Americans into action to develop a defense system for their coastal cities. A lengthy seacoast and the threat of naval attack from enemies across the Atlantic made such a system necessary. In March of 1794, a Congressional appropriation initiated a program which became known as the First American System of fortification. It was designed to effectively fortify American ports. Among the most important of these ports was New York City. Governors Island was of extreme importance strategically in the new defensive system that was to be developed for the protection of New York. Charles Vincent, the presidentially appointed French engineer who designed the harbor's fortifications, noted this importance in 1794.

Considering now the left hand shore, of which there is but one point occupied in the narrows, it will suggest the necessity to bestow the greatest attention in forming a

solid protection on Governors Island, the happy position of which can procure crossing fires with most of the points taken on the right hand shore...(American State Papers, vol. 1, p. 80)

Construction of the Governors Island fortification was begun shortly after the federal appropriation under the supervision of a Board of Commissioners appointed by the state. The new work was erected in the same location as the earlier fort but was increased in size by a third. Because of a lack of sufficient funding, the Board was compelled to call on local citizens for assistance with construction of the fort. New Yorkers, who had obviously learned the necessity of an effective defense system nearly two decades earlier, responded in large numbers. Work completed by the end of 1795 consisted of an earthen fort with walls partially lined with brick, two batteries, two air furnaces, a large powder magazine and a barrack for the garrison (ibid, p. 111). Subsequent appropriations totalling nearly

\$92,000 over the next six years allowed for the enlargement and improvement of the structure which was named Fort Jay in honor of Congressional Secretary of Foreign Affairs, John Jay. A map (Plate 7) dated 1800 shows the configuration of the fort and the buildings within it at the beginning of the 19th century.

Fort Jay was typical of fortifications of the First System. Urgency, occasioned by the war scare and insufficient funds resulted in the impermanent construction of earthen walls (Lewis, p. 21). As a result, when the threat of war subsided, many of the coastal forts deteriorated. By 1805 little of Fort Jay was salvageable. Also like most forts of the First System, Fort Jay was designed by a French engineer. Prior to the establishment of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, in 1802, the United States lacked qualified engineers capable of designing fortifications, thus the country depended heavily on the skills of foreign engineers during the 1790s (Ibid, p. 25).

By 1805 the threat of war brought on by renewed British interference with American shipping revived the interest in coastal fortifications, and the Chesapeake-Leopard incident compelled the Federal government to initiate a program for what came to be known as the Second System of American fortifications. Lieutenant-Colonel Jonathan Williams, the Army's Chief Engineer and first superintendent of the United States Military Academy, was placed in charge of the fortification of New York Harbor. In an 1805 report to the Secretary of War Henry Dearborn, Williams stated that "there does not appear to be any force that could prevent a ship of war from attacking the city..." (Pitkin, p. 2) He was soon pursuing a vigorous campaign of construction at sites around the inner harbor to rectify this situation. As a result, a highly effective harbor defense system protected the city from naval invasion during the War of 1812.

Williams considered the principle of harbor fortification to be twofold (Ibid). First, the enemy must be prevented from entering the harbor if possible. Second, destruction had to be assured should entry be gained. Fortifications at the Narrows were essential for adherence to the first principle, while defense works ringing the inner harbor were necessary for the second. Like his predecessor the French engineer Vincent, Williams recognized the strategic importance of Governors Island in such a fortification system. It was on the Island that work of the new campaign was first begun with reconstruction of Fort Jay.

Unlike their predecessors, the defense works erected during the Second System were designed by American military engineers like Williams and were of permanent masonry construction. These differences reflected the economic and technological progress being made in this country, as well as the beginning of a commitment to a more substantial system of seacoast fortifications as a deterrent to enemy attack.

The fort's siting and its firepower increased its effectiveness as a major component in the New York Harbor defense system. The sodded glacis stretched to the water's edge, allowing an unobstructed view from the East River on the west to the entrance of Buttermilk Channel on the east. Although the work, which had been renamed Fort Columbus, was situated on the highest point of the Island, the structure was sunk into the ground so that the glacis covered the wall as high as the base of the parapet. Thus, the scarp revetment was protected, and, according to Williams, enemy shot would either pass over the parapet or be stopped by it, limiting the potential for damage to the fort. Further, the height and distance of the fort from the water placed it out of the range of musquetry fired from the tops of enemy ships. When completed in 1809, Fort Columbus was capable of mounting 104 guns, making it one of the largest among the New York Harbor fortifications in artillery capability. Troops defending the fort could bring half its force at one instant against any passing ship while at the same time maintaining complete command of the East River (Stokes, p. 1496). The fort also contained a furnace for heating shot, a device typical of seacoast defense works. When fired, red-hot cannon balls would set their target afire.

By the beginning of the War of 1812, the strength of Fort Columbus was augmented by that of a second major fortification on Governors Island, Castle Williams (HABS # NY-5715-2) and by a third defense work South or Half-Moon Battery. Castle Williams, a circular, casemated, masonry work, was located on a rocky promontory on the northwest side of the Island. Its ability to mount approximately 100 guns and its bombproof construction allowed the Castle to effectively command the North River and the harbor to the southwest toward the

Narrows. South Battery, a smaller masonry work with 13 guns mounted en barbette protected the entrance to Buttermilk Channel, a narrow waterway to the east of Governors Island. The strength of the fortifications on Governors Island and elsewhere in the harbor effectively protected the city and the harbor from attack.

In the decades of peace following the war, the importance of the Governors Island fortifications diminished. At the same time, the importance of the Army post on the Island grew, and an increasing number of buildings were erected outside the walls of the defense works. As a result, the effectiveness of the fortifications, especially that of Fort Columbus, was impaired. This became apparent during the early years of the Civil War. In a June 1863 letter to the Commander of the Department of the East, Richard Delafield of the Corps of Engineers reported that the existence of numerous buildings on the Island blocked the lines of fire. He went on to recommend that these structures be demolished as soon as possible and that families living on the Island be moved elsewhere. Delafield's recommendations were not carried out, and the harbor passed the remaining years of the Civil War without action.

The decline of Fort Columbus as a major defense work continued during the remainder of the century. Changes in military technology coupled with a new role for the Island soon made the fort obsolete as a defense work. In 1878, the Division of the Atlantic and the Department of the East were transferred to Governors Island. This significant event marked a transition from the Island's status as a military fortification to one of an Army administrative center (Third Coast Guard District, p. 46). With this change, the number of buildings constructed on the Island continued to increase. By the end of the century, Fort Columbus which was renamed Fort Jay in 1904, was almost entirely surrounded by buildings blocking its view of the harbor on all sides.

The fort's more recent history is even more indicative of its obsolescence as a military fortification. In 1920-21 the barracks buildings within the fort were converted to officers' family housing. They remain in that use today. Few cannons remain in the gun traverses. Most of these are now planted with flower and vegetable gardens by families living within the fort. The former parade ground is currently used as a playground.

For information on individual buildings within the fort, see documentation HABS No. NY-5715-1A through 1D.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: The structure is a four bastioned square fortification with an attached ravelin on the north side. Its design dates back to early European designs. The

massive stone and brick walls enclose an open quadrangle surrounded by four two-story rectangular buildings. The east sallyport and sculpture above it form an impressive entry to the fort.

2. Condition of fabric: In general, the structure is in good condition although spalling and deterioration of stone and brick have taken place.

B. Description of the Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The fort is approximately 450 x 450' from bastion to bastion.
2. Foundations: The foundation is stone.
3. Walls and floors: The following is a description of a typical section beginning with the glacis on the outer edge and ending with the terreplein within the fort. The sodded glacis which originally stretched unobstructed to the water's edge is now used as the Island's golf course. The glacis is terminated by a low brick wall laid in Flemish bond. The sodded rampart behind this wall slopes downward toward the counterscarp and is about 10' in width. The rampart surrounds the fort except at the north ravelin. The counterscarp, a masonry wall of coursed red sandstone ashlar with a sandstone cap about 2' wide, forms the boundary between the rampart and ditch. The height of the counterscarp is increased and becomes continuous with the rampart wall at the north ravelin where the latter is discontinued. The ditch surrounding the fort is approximately 20' wide at the bastions and ravelin and 30' wide at the curtain walls. The scarp revetment of dressed random granite ashlar rises at a slight angle to a rounded granite cordon. The counterscarp of the east retired flank of the ravelin shows evidence of damage, possibly from the time the area was used as a rifle range. The tablette or outer vertical wall of the parapet is red brick laid in Flemish bond with brick coping. The west tablette of the southwest bastion and the south tablette of the northwest bastion are laid in 5-1 common bond. The west tablette of the latter is a mixture of Flemish bond and 6-1 common bond. Small areas of stuccoed coping rising the height of the parapet are at either side of the east sallyport and on the retired flanks of the ravelin. The salient angles of the tablette are embellished by four red sandstone quoins. Two of the quoins have been replaced by brick at the southeast angle of the southwest bastion. The tablette is in fair to poor condition with spalling and deteriorated mortar joints particularly on the south wall. Areas of newer brickwork are

particularly noticeable on the south wall of the southwest bastion, the east and north walls of the northeast bastion and the east wall of the ravelin.

The sodded parapet which rises above the tablette is approximately 5' in width. The parapet is supported on the interior of the fort by a red brick wall laid in Flemish bond topped by slate slabs supported by vertical metal bars. Directly behind the parapet, is the sodded terreplein. Stone gun traverses are situated on the terreplein around much of the perimeter of the fort. Guns have been removed from most of the traverses, and many are now planted with vegetable and flower gardens. The terreplein slopes downward toward the parade ground or quadrangle at the center of the fort. The terreplein has been cut down behind the long rectangular buildings surrounding the parade.

4. Structural system: Masonry load bearing walls.

5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The monumental east sallyport, approached by a concrete vehicular bridge, is constructed of dressed coursed red sandstone ashlar. Paired Doric pilasters support a plain entablature with prominent cornice. Two courses of sandstone surmounting the entrance form the base for a large sculpture featuring an eagle, a shield, weaponry and flags. The eagle's left wing and one of the flags are missing. The sandstone walls of the sallyport are pitted by vegetation which formerly grew on them. Access to the interior of the fort is through a barrel vaulted arch which is continuous with the postern bisecting Building #202. Machinery for the drawbridge that formerly stretched across the ditch is housed in niches on the north and south sides of the passageway. The drawbridge chains still hang from holes in the exterior wall of the sallyport.

The secondary or west sallyport is located midway in the west curtain wall and opens directly onto the ditch. The arched opening which is recessed about 6" consists of brick voussoirs and a granite keystone. The opening has two large arched wooden doors of vertical boards 4" thick. The doors are attached to the stone wall at the top by large iron hinges. The lower hinges are broken. The sallyport is continuous with the postern which bisects Building #210.

- b. Windows: Paired casemates are located in the retired flanks of the ravelin. These arched openings with brick sills and surrounds have been infilled with brick. Access to the casements is through tunnels connected to the powder magazine which is entered at the rear of Building #214.
6. Stairways: Access to the ditch from the rampart is provided by double sets of stone stairs at the northeast, southeast and southwest corners of the ditch. The steps in the northwest corner have been almost entirely replaced by a sodded ramp supported on the south by a curved brick wall. Another pair of steps leads to the ditch on the west side opposite the west sallyport. There is a deteriorated wooden stairway along the west counterscarp wall of the ravelin from the ditch to the top of the counterscarp wall. A short flight of concrete stairs with metal pipe railing is between the ditch and bridge to the north of the east sallyport. A brick stairway leads from the rampart to the glacis in the southwest corner. A wooden footbridge and stairs provide access from the rampart to the parapet of the southwest bastion.
- D. Site and surroundings:
1. General Setting and Orientation: The fort is located on the Island's highest point. Originally the sodded glacis surrounding the fort stretched unobstructed to the water's edge. It now serves as the Island's golf course. Over the years numerous structures have gone up around the fort obstructing the view toward the water. The main entrance is approached from a road around a polygonal paved area containing parking spaces and a raised oval brick enclosure planted with flowers and grass.

Within the center of the fort, the parade ground or quadrangle is surrounded on all four sides and divided into quarters by roadways. The roadways extend toward the bastions from the corners of the quadrangle to service double one-story brick garages built during the late 1930s as part of the Works Progress Administration Project. The quadrangle is landscaped with trees and currently contains playground equipment and a picnic table. Four rectangular two-story brick and stone structures with two-story colonnaded portico (Buildings #202, 206, 210 and 214) surround the quadrangle. Each consists of four quarters housing officers' families. Adjacent to Building #206 on the west, to Building #202 on the south and to Building #214 on the west are small one-story brick and stone triangular buildings. Each is connected to the larger building on the front facade by a red sandstone wall. The buildings appear to

be used as storage spaces now. Also within the fort is a building originally used as a powder magazine and now used as a small arms storage area. The building is entered through large metal doors in a red sandstone facade directly behind the postern in Building #214. With the exception of a shallow gable roofed structure located in the north ravelin, the remainder of the building is below grade. The flagpole is to the north of this structure. A round cement base marks the location of a stone water tower that stood to the north of Building #214.

2. Outbuildings: Directly behind Building #214, is an entrance to the magazine (Building #215). A coursed red sandstone wall with round arched steel doors opens onto a masonry vaulted tunnel. There are two rooms to either side of the tunnel. The tunnel terminates at a central court with two casemate openings, which have been infilled with brick, in the retired flanks of the ravelin at each side. At the northern end of the magazine, are two rooms. The structure which is now used as storage for small arms is mostly below grade. Only the entrance, four metal ventilators and a brick structure with asphalt roof are above grade. The present magazine replaced a much earlier powder magazine in the last half of the 1830s.

A small, one-story structure (Building #201) located directly behind the east sallyport of the fort was originally used as a guard house. The 1813 cross section of the Island shows what may have been this structure. It is constructed of red brick laid in Flemish bond and has a red sandstone ashlar foundation. The north and south walls have brick arches with former windows. The infilled window openings have brick jack arches and stone lug sills. The three bays on the west side are defined by arches, two of which contained windows with brick jack arches and stone lug sills. The window openings have been infilled with brick. The center arch contains the door which has been covered with plywood. The walls are largely obscured by vegetation. The roof is gabled with a copper cornice and asphalt covering.

### PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

#### A. Architectural Drawings:

The following drawings located in Record Group 77 at the Cartographic and Architectural Branch of the National Archives illustrate the configuration and appearance of Fort Jay.

Map of the Islands and Military Points in the Harbor of New York, their Distances and Situations and Profiles through Governors, Bedloes and Ellis Island, and the Works thereon. Joseph Mangin. 1813. Fortification File, Fort Columbus, Drawer 36, sheet 20.

GOVERNORS ISLAND, FORT COLUMBUS (FORT JAY)  
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(Page 19)

A Map of Governor's Island. Joseph Mangin. 1813. Fortification File, Fort Columbus, Drawer 37, sheet 1.

Map of Governors Island with Plan and Profile of the Works thereon, W. Tell Poussin. 1819. Fortification File, Fort Columbus, Drawer 37, sheet 4.

Plan of Fort Columbus. 1831. Fortification File, Fort Columbus, Drawer 37, sheet 7.

Plan of Fort Columbus, Governors' Island, New York, Divided into Two Sections. The First Showing the Original Work. The Second Exhibiting the Repairs and Alterations Proposed to be Adopted in Completing the Authorized Repairs. Maj. R. E. DeRussey. October 17, 1832. Fortification File, Fort Columbus, Drawer 37, sheet 9.

Plan of Fort Columbus Showing Recent Alterations in Barracks and Terreplein. April 24, 1839. Fortification File, Fort Columbus, Drawer 37, sheet 10.

Plan of Governors Island, New York Harbor, Surveyed Under the Direction of Capt. J. G. Barnard, U. S. Engineers. 1839. Fortification File, Fort Columbus, Drawer 37, sheet 15.

Map Showing the Position of All Buildings on Governors Island, 1st December 1867, From a Survey Made Under the Direction of Maj. John G. Barnard, Corps of Engineers. Fortification File, Fort Columbus, Drawer 37, sheet 55.

Map of Governor's Island, New York Harbor Surveyed by 1st Lieut. Eugene Griffin, Corps of Engineers and Frederick N. Owen, Assistant Engineer. 1879. Fortification File, Fort Columbus, Drawer 37, sheet 63.

Plan of Governors Island. 1871. Record Group 77, Miscellaneous Forts File, Fort Jay, #33.

Sketch of Fort Columbus Governors Island Showing its Present Armament. December 12, 1873. Fortification File, Drawer 250, sheet 1-5.

Sketch Showing Armament. April 1, 1892. Fortification File, Drawer 250, sheet 1-11.

Armament Sketch for Fort Columbus Drawn Under the Direction of Major H. M. Adams. December 31, 1896. Fortification File, Fort Columbus, Drawer 250, sheet 1-14.

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Armament Sketch for Fort Columbus Drawn Under the Direction of Major H. M. Adams. December 31, 1897. Fortification File, Fort Columbus, Drawer 250, sheet 1-16.

Armament Sketch for Fort Columbus Drawn Under the Direction of Major H. M. Adams. December 31, 1898. Fortification File, Fort Columbus, Drawer 250, sheet 1-18.

Sketch of Fort Columbus Showing Its Present Armament. February 1, 1872. Fortification File, Fort Columbus, Drawer 259, sheet 41.

B. Early Views:

View of the East Sallyport, 1864. Record Group 165, Records of the War Department General and Special Staffs, Still Picture Branch, National Archives.

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Williams, Jonathan. "Draft of a Report to the Secretary of War Relative to the Progress and Present State of the Fortifications in the Harbor of New York." November 1808. Williams, J., Mss. Manuscript Department, Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. This report contains a description of Fort Jay as it was built 1806-1809. A photocopy is attached.

Major Richard Delafield to Brigadier General Joseph Totten, November 15, 1848. Record Group 92, Box 346, Governors Island. Navy and Old Army Branch, National Archives. Cites Hilliard and Louder as builders of Fort Jay.

Major Richard Delafield to Major General John Wood, June 19, 1863. Delafield Letter Press Book, 1862-1864, Manuscript Division, New York Historical Society.

2. Secondary and Published Sources:

American State Papers: Documents, Legislative and Executive, of the Congress of the United States. Class V, Military Affairs, Vols. 1-7. Washington, D.C.: Gales and Seaton, 1832-1861. Included in these volumes are reports primarily from the Engineering Department and the Secretary of War which pertain to the early fortifications on the Island and the construction and later repairs to the current Fort Jay for the years 1794-1837.

Historic American Buildings Survey. "Fort Jay, Governors Island, New York Harbor, N.Y." March 25, 1934. Prints and Photographs Division, Library of Congress. Copies of the drawings are included with the photographs following the Bibliography.

Lewis, Emanuel Raymond. Seacoast Fortifications of the United States: An Introductory History. Annapolis, Maryland: Leeward Publications Inc., 1979.

Lombard, Mildred E. "Williams, Jonathan." Dictionary of American Biography. Vol. 20. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1936. pp. 280-282.

Pitkin, Thomas M., editor. Supplementary Material Relating to the Construction of West Battery-Castle Clinton, From the Jonathan Williams Papers, Lilly Library, Indiana University. New York: Statue of Liberty National Monument, April 1963. Contains information related to the construction of Fort Columbus.

Robinson, Willard B. American Forts: Architectural Form and Function. Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 1977.

Smith, Edmund Banks. Governor's Island: Its Military History Under Three Flags, 1637-1913. New York: Edmund Banks Smith, 1913. Smith's works are most useful for events contemporary with his writing.

\_\_\_\_\_. Governor's Island: Its Military History Under Three Flags, 1637-1922. New York: Valentines Manual Inc., 1923.

Stokes, I. N. Phelps. The Iconography of Manhattan Island, 1498-1909. Vol. 5. New York: Robert H. Dodd, 1926. Contains material from a range of primary sources pertaining to the early history of Governors Island.

Third Coast Guard District, Three Centuries Under Three Flags: The Story of Governors Island from 1637. Governors Island, New York: Third Coast Guard District, 1978.

U.S. Department of the Interior, National Register of Historic Places. Inventory-Nomination Form, "Fort Jay/Fort Columbus, Governors Island, New York." September 3, 1971.

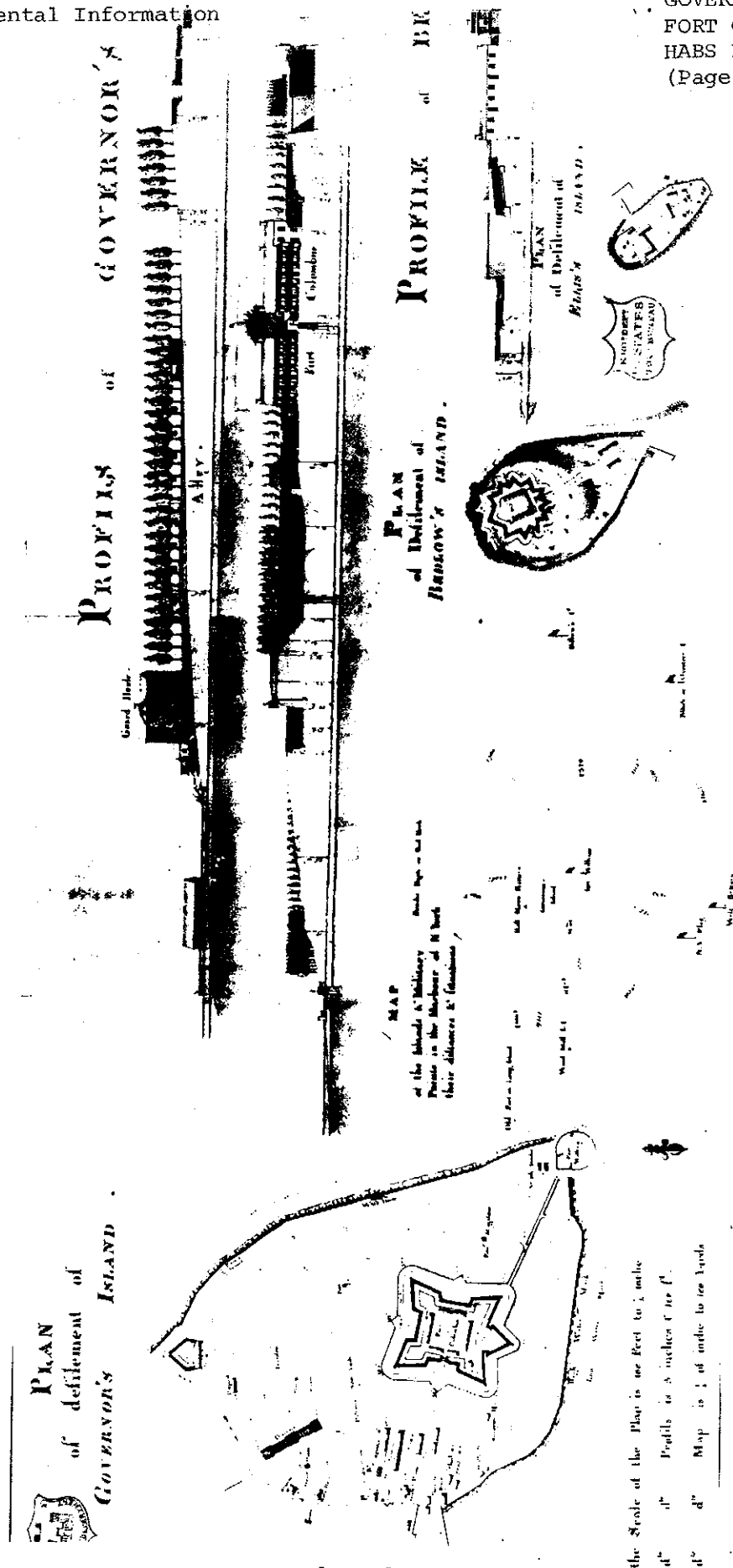


Plate 1

Photocopy of Map of Governors Island, New York  
National Archives, Architectural and Cartographic Branch  
Record Group 77-Fortifications File, Drawer 36, sheet 20  
Profiles of Governors Island, Bedlow's Island and Ellis Island  
Drawn by Joseph L. Mangin, June 1813

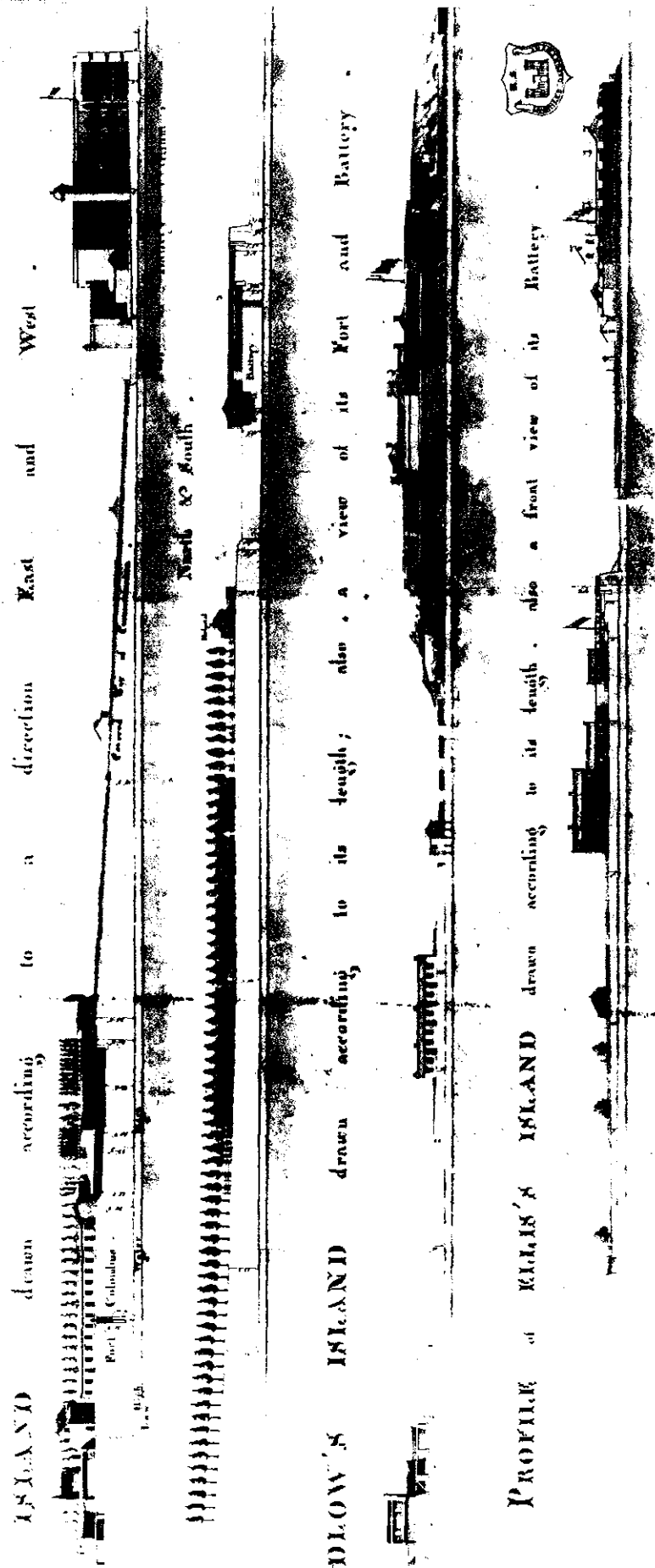


Plate 2

Photocopy of Map of Governors Island, New York  
 National Archives, Architectural and Cartographic Branch  
 Record Group 77-Fortifications File, Drawer 36, sheet 20  
 Profiles of Governors Island, Bedlow's Island and Ellis Island  
 Drawn by Joseph L. Mangin, June 1813



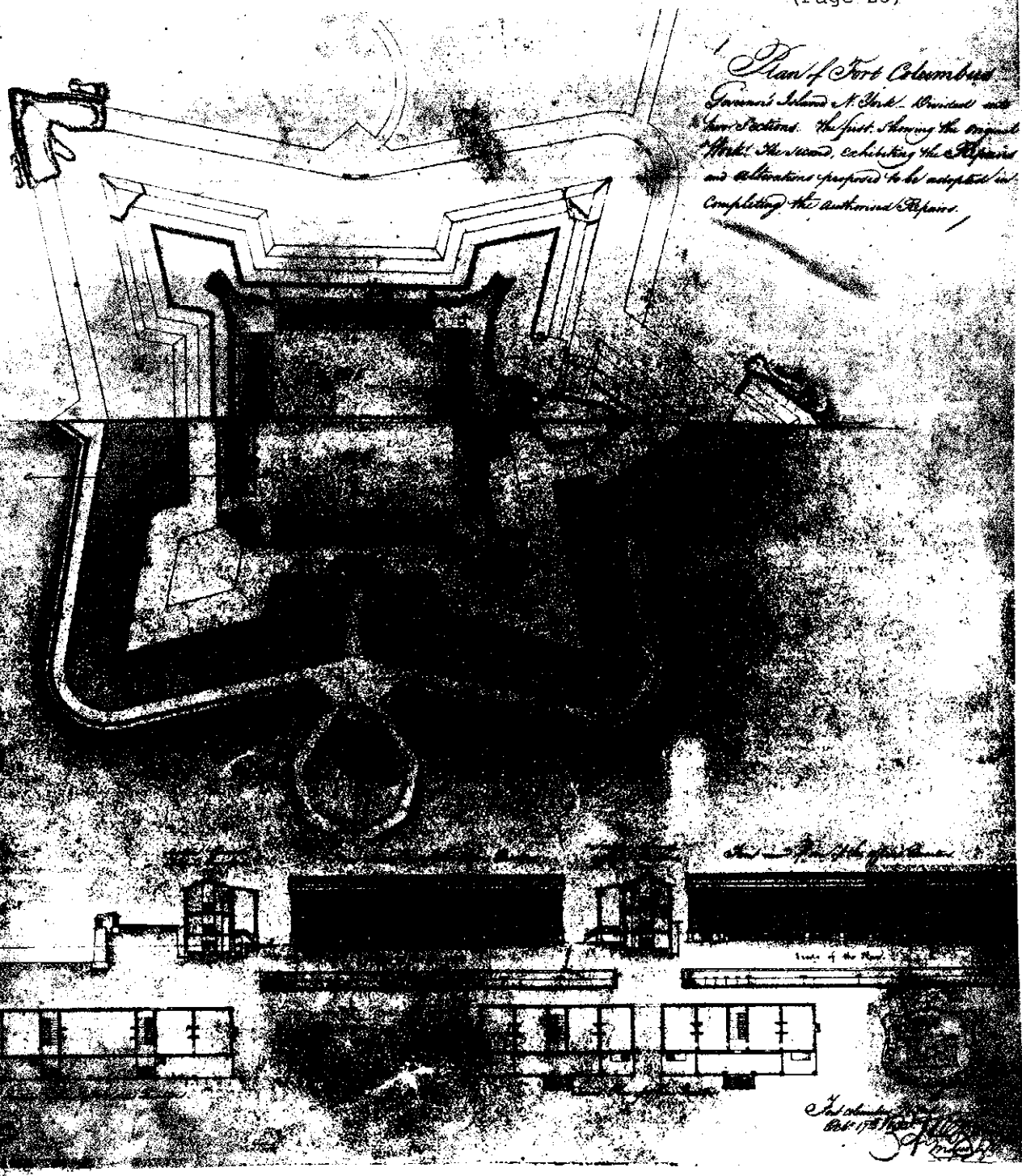


Plate 4

Photocopy of Drawing of Fort Columbus, New York  
 National Archives, Architectural and Cartographic Branch  
 Record Group 77-Fortifications File, Drawer 37, sheet  
 Plan of Officer's and Soldier's Quarters  
 Drawn by an Unknown Delineator, October 17, 1832

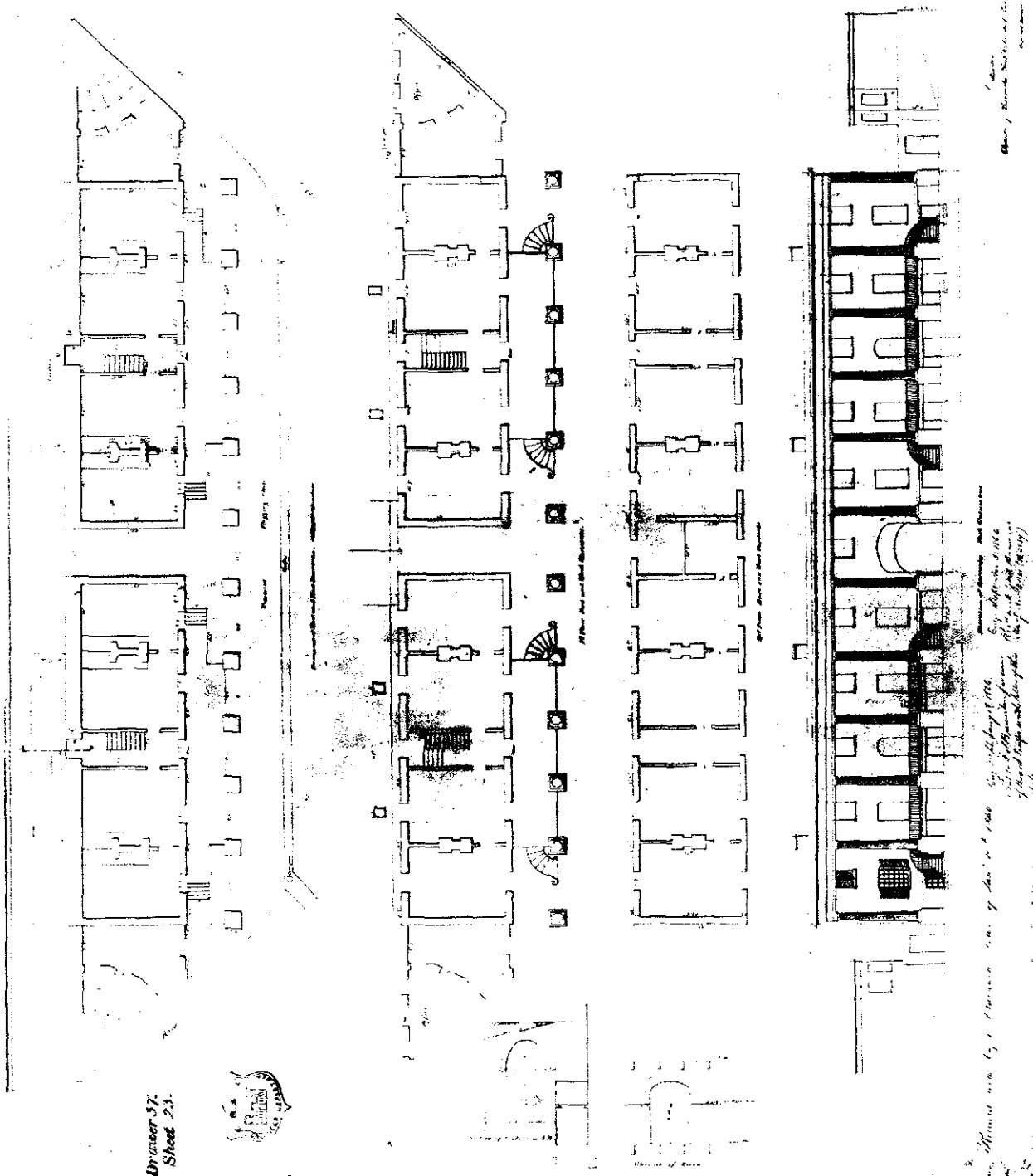


Plate 5

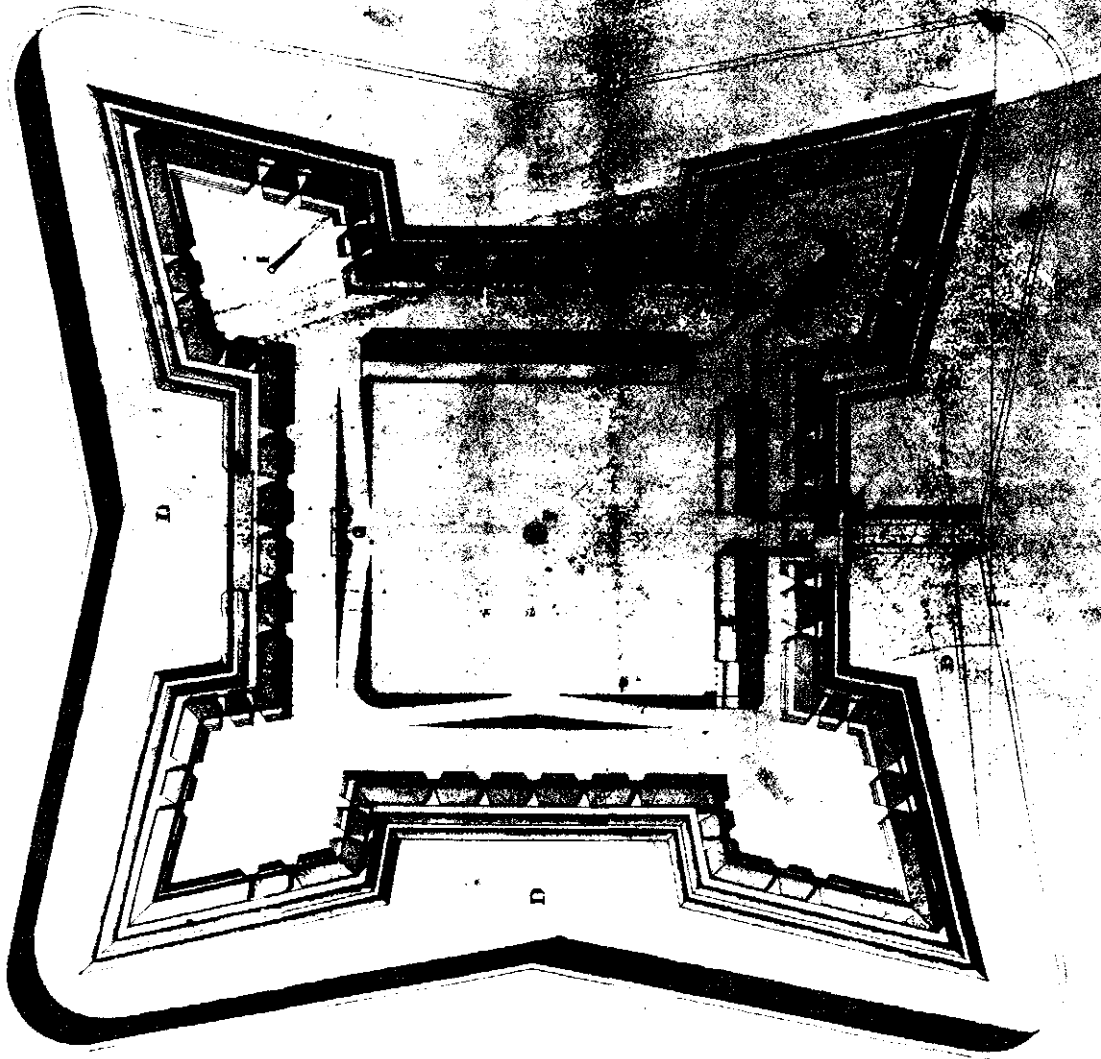
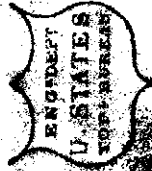
Photocopy of Drawing of Barracks, Fort Jay, New York  
National Archives, Architectural and Cartographic Branch  
Record Group 77-Fortifications File, Drawer 37, sheet 23  
Details for Officer's and Soldier's Quarters  
Drawn by Captain J.G. Barnard, December 1839

*Plan of the fort Jay on  
Governors Island, N.Y.  
of New York, as it was in 1801*

### Reference

- A. the Bridge.
- B. the Draw-bridge.
- C. the Gate.
- D. the Ditch.
- E. the Bastions.
- F. the Wall.
- G. the Bastion Gate.
- H. the Bastion Magazine.
- I. the Flag.

*The scale is one inch to forty feet.  
Designed January 16, 1801. By Joseph Mangin*



*Drawer 36.  
Sheet 16.*



Plate 6

Photocopy of Drawing of Fort Jay, Governors Island, N.Y.  
National Archives, Architectural and Cartographic Branch  
Record Group 77-Fortifications File, Drawer 36, sheet 16  
Plan of Fort Jay on Governors Island  
Drawn by Joseph L. Mangin, January 16, 1801

In conformity to the Orders of the Secretary of War the Subscriber has the honor to submit the following

## Report

relative to the progress and present state of the Fortifications in the Harbour of New York

## Governors Island

It will be recollected that it was only in the Spring of 1806 that the demolition and removal of the Works on Governors Island was determined on and that these Works were at that time in a state of absolute ruin. <sup>consisting of a Tower of 45' a horizontal Boom a fixed Tower of 125' a chimney 65' a rounder defended by horizontal Fraises.</sup> The jettied Ramparts, were subject to continual depreciation by successive rains, and the rotten fraises were daily falling by their own weight, which kept the Garrison in almost constant fatigue while the Parquet <sup>and wooden</sup> ~~which furnished this decaying Parquet~~ was become a mass of rotten boards. In this state repair of any kind was totally out of the question and consequently no part of the Fort except walled counterscarp, the Gate <sup>arch</sup>, the faille porte, the Magazine and two Barracks

Williams, J., Mss.

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Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

GOVERNORS ISLAND  
FORT COLUMBUS (FORT JAY)





to carry the smoke out above & that may yet be done, but it has <sup>been</sup> thought unnecessary for the reasons here mentioned. On each pair of Embrasures an arch is sprung from one cross wall to the other, in the Body of the exterior Wall to the width of 6 feet and <sup>at the crown</sup> upon of this arch ~~the~~ a keel of one foot is made for the joists of the second floor to rest upon, so that the second Tier of Guns will be independent of any accident to the Lower Tier even if all the Wall between the Piers of the arches were to be battered down; it would in such an event exhibit a circular Battery standing upon arches the Piers of which are at least 13 feet in thickness. Another material advantage results from this arrangement, the top stones of the Embrasure, except the outside one, has <sup>more</sup> no weight of Wall to support <sup>than</sup> ~~except~~ the small mass under the arch, ~~and~~ over the outside stone a very neat & strong flat arch of each stone is so ~~well~~ well adjusted as to ~~through~~ the pressure of the ~~the~~ whole wall above, on each side of them. ~~That~~ ~~any species of degradation has been guarded against.~~

The Walls of the Castle being nearly up to the second floor, & the floor <sup>being</sup> 10 feet laid as to give the Subscriber full confidence in its being done ~~the~~ before the Winter sets in, he will describe it as finished, not doubting that it will be so ~~and this report is read within the~~ present Month.

by this description that the center of motion is ~~at the~~  
 immediately under the ~~main~~ mouth of the Gun & some  
~~inches~~ <sup>are</sup> within the commencement of the Blast. The  
 consequences <sup>are</sup> first, the extremity of the Gun rests in  
 the same place whatever change there may be in the  
 line of direction, which requires the Embrasure in that  
 place to be no wider than is necessary for the purpose  
 of sight, and second the Gun projecting so far as 3 feet  
 within the Embrasure & a few inches beyond the throat  
 or narrowest part, the Blast sends all the smoke  
<sup>of it</sup> out, in the same manner as in Ships of War where  
 the Guns extend without the side, unless there were a current  
 of air drawing through the Embrasure inward, <sup>Smoke</sup> ~~not~~  
 could return, & it is certainly more likely for the air to  
 rush from the cool area within, to the hot blast without  
 than otherwise, since the more dense will always rush  
 into the more rare ~~medium~~ part of the atmosphere.  
 For the smoke arising from the Vent as well as that <sup>if</sup>  
 any that might come in from the Blast, there are  
<sup>or Doorways</sup> openings on each side of each arcade, of about 80 square  
 feet, & 144 square feet in the rear, giving more than  
 300 square feet for the smoke to dissipate itself, besides  
 all the <sup>space overhead</sup> height <sup>which</sup> ~~being~~ each apartment being 12 feet  
 from the floor to the joists <sup>above</sup> ~~above~~. — It would have been  
 easy to have constructed Chimneys in the body of the wall  
 to

It ~~consists~~ <sup>has</sup> upon two <sup>axles</sup> Wheels & a Roller running upon a frame which moves in a <sup>segment of a</sup> circle upon four concentric Wheels of Iron, the center of motion being at the end of a tongue piece, so far in advance as to be immediately under the <sup>mouth of the</sup> muzzle of the Gun. <sup>in the</sup> The motion of recoil is in grooves of the frame which being in ascending direction causes the recoil to be reacted against by the gravity of the Gun, and the Wheels & Roller running within and upon groovy <sup>renders</sup> ~~prevents~~ the possibility of any lateral motion, and causes the recoil to be in <sup>impossible & of course</sup> ~~causes~~ a precise line with the axis of the Bore. —

immediately under the Embrazure is an angular aperture which admits the <sup>tongue</sup> ~~tongue~~ Piece of the Frame about three feet <sup>within the wall of</sup> so that the pivot Hole comes immediately under a hole made through the stool of the Embrazure precisely in the throat of it, & a strong iron spike passing through the Wall & the tongue piece forms the Pivot upon which the whole <sup>to the extent of</sup> moves <sup>24</sup> on each side of the <sup>axis</sup> ~~line~~ of the Embrazure making an angle of 54 for the range of Fire: at this angle the Lines of Fire will cross each other at less than 20 feet from the exterior of the Wall. — It will be perceived by

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From the interior side of the exterior Wall the Foundation extends inwards five feet, so that nearly the whole weight of the Gun when it is run rests upon the foundation; in like manner the Foundation of the interior Wall extends five feet within it forming a solid Bed for Piles of Shot to rest upon, <sup>entirely out of the way</sup> in the triangles between the <sup>to the</sup> ~~entrances~~ <sup>of the</sup> ~~of the~~ <sup>with</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>on each side</sup> the floor between <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>composed</sup> of ~~oak~~ <sup>oak</sup> joists & thick Pine Plank. — Between the Piers of the Craft Wall, which form each side of the door ways communicating round the circumference, there are reversed arches of Brick under the floor to connect & strengthen these Piers which are destined to support the arches of the casemates over the second story. — The Area within the interior Wall is 124 feet in diameter open to the Heavens, in the center of which a solid Foundation for a magazine, <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>large</sup> and at convenient distances are ~~for~~ two foundations for winding stone stairs and two others for furnaces. —

Previously to describing the interior of the Embrazure it is first necessary to describe the Gun Carriage which has been constructed for this <sup>large</sup> ~~large~~ <sup>gun</sup> ~~gun~~ <sup>which</sup> ~~which~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>entirely</sup> ~~entirely~~ <sup>new</sup>. — A frame is made. It

the lower stones where this slope begins extend eight feet under the foundations, & so rise continually, reaching to the height of <sup>five</sup> feet, <sup>the slope then finished</sup> it is then laid with flag stones, the lower edge of which is let into a groove cut into the exterior edge of the lower Foundation stone, & the whole is compacted with a cement of mortar & iron borings which renders <sup>it similar to</sup> ~~the whole~~ <sup>the</sup> one solid Mass of Stone. —

From this Line the exterior Wall rises in a thickness of 8 feet, - the interior <sup>are</sup> of 5 feet with cripp Walls of seven feet, leaving the area ~~leaving the area~~ <sup>in length</sup> ~~space~~ <sup>30 feet in length</sup> between them 24 feet, for the Platform of the guns. The outside facing of the castle is of cut stone laid in what is called Flemish Bond, that is, the stones lying each <sup>measuring</sup> ~~at~~ two cubic feet, are laid alternately lengthwise & breadthwise, and <sup>so</sup> cut as to dovetail into each other ~~hardly equally resisting a pressure from within or a blow~~ ~~in fact from without rendering them immovable unless~~ broken. This exterior face is wholly laid with the iron boring cement before mentioned and the joints appear to be as hard as the stones themselves. - The Embrazures One tier of which is <sup>scarcely</sup> completed, & are so composed as to have but one ~~stone~~ length of stone across or along them so that they must be shattered before they can be dislocated and the throat of this embrazure aperture is so small that there is not space for a Ball to pass between the muzzle of the Gun & its side as will be hereafter ~~explained~~ particularly explained.

~~This part of the report may be seen~~  
 The Grass has not been sowed to its full extent  
 owing to the want of seed, but it will be all sowed  
 with grass seed before spring, when it will probably  
 appear like ~~a~~ a luxuriant Lawn.

(Page 36)

There were two Breastworks of Earth in  
 front of the old Fort, which ~~have not been removed~~ <sup>have not been removed</sup> ~~it being~~  
 thought unnecessary to ~~remove them~~ <sup>destroy them</sup> ~~with the~~  
 Castle is finished, ~~when especially as the Earth~~  
 of which they are composed ~~should~~ <sup>be</sup> be wanted  
 at that height ~~to support the~~ <sup>to support the</sup>  
 for some the proposed could suffice.

## The Castle

At the Western extremity of Governors Island  
 there is a Point of Rocks which runs to the edge of  
 the Channel extending <sup>about eighty</sup> ~~about eighty~~ <sup>yards</sup> ~~yards~~  
 without the Beach, & the space within being bare  
 only at very low Water. - On this Base which was  
 found to be a Bed of red clay crusted with large & very  
 hard Rocks & Stones the foundation of a circular Castle  
 was ~~made~~ begun in 1807. - The exterior diameter  
 which is 210 feet - after rising to high water mark the  
 foundation recedes 5 feet all round in a slope of 45° to

Within the area of the Parade is a well of the finest <sup>\*\*</sup>  
 Water which, with another Well formerly made in the center  
 of the Parade, renders <sup>a perpetual</sup> the supply of Water certain. The  
 Bomb-proof Arches open into this area, they  
<sup>together a</sup> form a protected space of about 2000 square feet in  
 each. & with two <sup>entrances</sup> <sup>in each</sup> from which the  
~~ditch~~ <sup>into the ditch</sup> may be effectually scoured,  
 is that the ~~dead angles~~ <sup>become</sup> completely protected, and the angles on  
 either side are commanded by <sup>new gun</sup> <sup>in the rear</sup>  
 a Gallery formed by <sup>a continuation of the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> Parapet, above  
 The Towers that were in the Fort have been undisturbed  
 owing to the enlargement of the Esplanade of the rampart  
 before mentioned, which throws them so far in, the rear  
 as to be entirely out of the way of the Guns. — They were  
 before very <sup>inconspicuously</sup> ~~inconspicuously~~ planted at the very edge of  
 the Parapet, & would have impeded the movement of the  
 Guns in case of an action. Rows of Trees in all Ramparts  
 are usually planted in the rear of the Platform.  
 Two new Barracks have been made <sup>on</sup> <sup>opposite to</sup> the sides of  
 the Parade one with a single story, similar to that  
 which existed before, the other of two stories opposite but  
 not similar to the one across the Gate way. owing to the  
 too great height of the old Barrack, it is this last  
 Barrack which yet wants the inside finish. —



Within the area of the Parade is a well of the finest <sup>water</sup> ~~water~~ which, with another Well formerly made in the center of the Parade, <sup>a perpetual</sup> renders the supply of Water certain. The Bomb-proof Arches open into this area, they <sup>together a</sup> form a protected space of about 2000 square feet in each. & with two <sup>entrances</sup> ~~entrances~~ <sup>in each</sup> from which the ~~ditch~~ <sup>on both sides</sup> ~~on both sides~~ may be effectually secured, so that the ~~dead angles~~ <sup>angles</sup> made by the retired Flank become completely protected, and the angles on either side are commanded by musquetry from a Gallery formed by <sup>a continuation of the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>in the rear</sup> ~~the~~ Parapet, above. The Trees that were in the Fort have been undisturbed owing to the enlargement of the Esplanade of the rampart before mentioned, which throws them so far in, the result is to be entirely out of the way of the Guns. — They are before very <sup>insidiously</sup> ~~insidiously~~ <sup>carefully</sup> ~~carefully~~ planted at the very edge of the Parapet, & would have impeded the movement of the Guns in case of an action. Rows of Trees in all Ramparts are usually planted in the rear of the ~~Front~~ <sup>on</sup> Platform. Two new Barracks have been made <sup>on</sup> ~~between~~ the sides of the Parade one <sup>opposite to it</sup> with a single story, similar to that which existed before, the other of two stories opposite but not similar to the one across the Gate way. owing to the too great height of the old Barrack, it is this last Barrack which yet wants the inside finish.





all today, & we  
managed to  
~~escape~~ get in  
humanity  
by some accident  
it would be impossible to take  
~~any more~~  
business concerns by the body  
to which Hopkin's Government is  
not one of the

to Mrs.

Wm. A. D. W.

and the opposite

with Channel

need of land  
for plant of the land

James H. Hunt  
Barth. Randolph Co.

Small Receipt

100

1

1871

*John*

146

The Male has in 8  
days  
adapts himself to be  
or becomes

Countdown at the

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which also have as P.

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what is the name of the

1. *W. B. R.*

~~Submitted by~~

~~Spent much of~~  
~~week to arrange of~~

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in handwriting course

at the distance of

Irregular Grace

made to find that many of the persons in the  
neighborhood of the school were

Hot - covered

remained by the  
same

King's own illustration.

Note at bottom of pages 2 and 3

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2

Barracks could be preserved. All the rest it became  
necessary to remove as rubbish, to give place for a  
Work composed of durable materials, and in July  
of that Year <sup>the</sup> Corner Stone of <sup>was laid</sup> Fort Columbus  
~~was laid~~. - The shape of the new Fort was on three,  
of its sides the same with the old ones, <sup>with the addition of</sup>  
on each side <sup>a bastion</sup>, small bastions owing to the small talus, re-  
quisite for a Wall, and the great one, necessary for a  
solid Rampart with its Berme & Chemin des  
ronces. On the north side a Bastion has been attached  
with two retired Flanks <sup>in lieu of the old Counterscarp & its Flank expressly to take</sup>  
off a Line of Fire which could not avoid the City & to form batteries commanding the East &  
now completed except a part of the glacis on the  
SE angle, and some interior finish to the two of the  
Platform & one Barrack.  
The Glacis from the Point commanding the whole width  
of the East River, to that which commands the opposite  
extreme at the SW entrance of Buttermilk Channel  
being a jump of about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the circumference extends  
to the Water Edge, & forms a complete command of this part of the Harbour.  
except only, where it is interrupted by the irregular bastion described.  
The entrenchment is complete round the whole inclosure except  
only the place d'armes opposite the Gate which for  
obvious reasons has been left open to the last till  
it is now closing and will soon be finished.  
The Wall supporting the crest of the Glacis is six feet  
high.

#### PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) at the request of the United States Coast Guard, Third Coast Guard District, Governors Island, New York, who funded the project. The field work was accomplished during the summers of 1982 and 1983. The historic structures inventory, a National Historic Landmark District nomination and the documentation of five properties were completed in 1984. A three-volume report and inventory cards containing the results of the historic structures inventory have been transmitted to the Library of Congress as field records under HABS No. NY-5715. The National Historic Landmark District nomination was submitted and acted upon favorably by the National Park System Advisory Board in October of 1984.

Sally Kress Tompkins, Deputy Chief of HABS/HAER, was project manager. John Burns, AIA and S. Allen Chambers both of the HABS staff provided technical assistance and review; Jet Lowe, HAER staff photographer, completed the large format photography; Blanche Higgins, historian, and David Broderson of Cornell University completed the historic structures inventory during the summer of 1982; Barbara Hightower, historian, developed the HABS documentation during the summer of 1983; Karin Madison of the HABS/HAER staff assisted in the production of the report and provided photographic control. Paige George of the University of Virginia did the Governors Island map and title sheet. Jay Silberman, Environmental Specialist, District Planning Office, Third Coast Guard District, Governors Island, served as manager and coordinator of the project for the U.S. Coast Guard.